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RUNCORN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

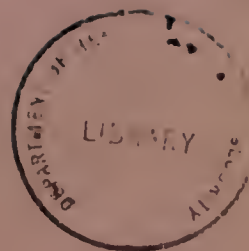
of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For Year Ending 31st December 1972





URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUNCORN

ANNUAL REPORT

1972

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the report of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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Officials of the Public Health Department -

Medical Officer of Health: Dr J E O'Malley MRCS LRCP DPH

The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health of Middlewich, Northwich and Winsford Urban and Northwich and Runcorn Rural District Councils and Divisional Medical Officer to the Mid-Cheshire and Runcorn Divisions.

Public Health Inspectors:

Chief	A Duckworth MAPHI Smoke Inspector's Diploma
Deputy Chief	G W Peattie DipPHIEB MAPHI Smoke Inspector's Diploma (Appointed April 1972)
Additional	R Jones DipPHIEB MAPHI Diploma in Air Pollution Control P D Jackson DipPHIEB MAPHI Diploma in Air Pollution (Appointed April 1972) Control. K J Ramsden DipPHIEB MAPHI (Appointed May 1972)
Student Public Health Inspector	Miss J O'Connor (Appointed July 1972)
Clerical Assistant	Mrs M M Findlow
Refuse Superintendent	R J Mather (Appointed July 1972)
Technical Assistant	D Crosby (Appointed April 1972)

Members of the Urban District Council of Runcorn

Chairman of the Council

Councillor C S Howard

Vice Chairman of the Council

Councillor S Williams

Councillor T Clare

- " A R Cole
- " G H Dutton
- " R Eastup
- " Mrs M F Eaton
- " K J Ebbrell
- " O Findlow
- " G Grimes
- " G R Gray
- " C J Helsby
- " A Inett
- " H L Lunt
- " W A Luxton (Chairman of the Public Health Committee)
- " E Molyneux
- " Miss J Mount
- " A Parr
- " Miss M J Preece CA MBE
- " K Robinson
- " S G Rose
- " Mrs M B Sherlock
- " P Tyrrell
- " R C Woods

Officers

Clerk, Solicitor & Chief Executive Officer : T J Lewis OBE  
(until 31.3.72)  
S A E Reese LL.B (Hons)  
(from 1.4.72)

Engineer & Surveyor: K P Leake CEng MICE FIMunE

Treasurer: C N Green

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUNCORN

Tel: Runcorn 67711

Public Health Department

Town Hall

Runcorn

September 1973

To: The Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Runcorn

Dear Mr Chairman & Councillors

ANNUAL REPORT 1972

During the year further consolidation of existing health services has taken place but day to day work has to a great extent been overshadowed by the impending re-organisation of Local Government and the National Health Service both scheduled to take place on 1st April 1974.

Primary health team care is now accepted as the normal pattern of general practice throughout the country. Groups of general practitioners with attached nursing staff comprising health visitors, district nurses and midwives work together as a team either from purpose built health centres or from group practice premises.

One of the most important features in the provision of primary medical care was the establishment in Runcorn early in 1972 of the University of Liverpool Teaching Practice. The Lecturer in General Practice at the University is also senior partner at Palace Fields Health Centre. This provides the opportunity to teach under-graduate medical students the wider concepts of community care enabling them to see at first hand and gain experience in the working of a modern primary health care team practising from a purpose built health centre. Although the centre is at present a temporary building it will in time be replaced by a larger permanent building offering accommodation not only for the provision of general practitioner services but also under-graduate medical teaching facilities and post-graduate medical training.

This important development in the fields of good general practice and medical education has been made possible by the joint planning of the County Health Department, the Executive Council and the University of Liverpool.

As many of the problems which present themselves to the general practitioner have as their main element a social factor or cause it is important that the links between the health services and social services department continue to be strengthened. In many health centres and county clinics accommodation has been provided for the social services department to hold family advisory sessions. It is important that all primary health care teams are able to obtain regular help from a member of the social services department. One way of achieving this is for a nominated social services officer to be responsible for regular contact with particular group practices. This is already taking place in certain parts of the county and its extension is not only desirable but essential. Anticipating closer links between the new national health service and the social services departments of local authorities after the 1st April 1974, this is one example of the way in which the two services can be brought closer together for the benefit of the patient or the client.

The integrated child health screening programme introduced on the 1st January 1972, is working well. Children are screened at pre-determined ages and these simple checks are undertaken alternately by doctors and nurses who have received special training. The child is seen at the age of 6 weeks, 9 months, 2 years and 3 years. At 4½ years he will be invited for a pre-school medical examination as at present.



Other screening procedures have been continued and extended. These include arrangements for cervical cytology and the testing of female staff from schools and other departments for their immunity to Rubella. The latter can now be offered vaccination which gives protection to subsequent unborn children from the adverse effects of German measles.

The greater part of this report deals with a wide variety of environmental health matters which have been dealt with during the year. The supervision and surveillance of communicable disease cases and contacts continues to demand a considerable portion of the time of the Public Health Inspectors. The importation of infectious diseases from tropical and sub-tropical regions is a constant hazard especially due to the rapidity of modern air travel and such serious diseases as smallpox can be introduced into the country in this way. The trend for foreign holidays continues and this in turn is reflected in an increase in the work of the Public Health Inspectorate in this important aspect of the control of communicable disease.

It is my opinion that the radical changes which will occur in traditional public health departments in 1974 has been made possible only by the painstaking work of the Public Health Inspectors on the one hand and by the continued programme of immunisation and vaccination on the other. The general public now take for granted and indeed demand clean air, clean food, clean water and many other aspects of a healthy environment.

It is only by thorough day to day work that the Public Health Inspectors have been able to bring this about and they are to be congratulated on the many successes which they have achieved in the environmental field since 1948. It is absolutely essential that their work continues and that after 1st April 1974 the closest links are maintained between the new Local Government District Environmental Officers and the Medical Officers of the new Area Health Authority. There are still many serious infectious diseases and conditions which for their control need the closest co-operation between Doctors and Public Health Inspectors.

My thanks are due to Mr Duckworth the Chief Public Health Inspector and his Staff for their loyalty and support, to the Clerk and Chief Officers of the Council for their help and advice and to the Chairman and Members of the Committee for their constant co-operation.

Your Obedient Servant

J E O'MALLEY

Medical Officer of Health



# SECTION A - General and Vital Statistics

## 1. COMPARATIVE GENERAL STATISTICS - 1971/72

	Year	
	1972	1971
Population (estimated mid-year)	38,420	36,340
Area (Acres of District)	8,036	8,036
Rateable Value	£2,292,837	£2,061,568
Estimated number of inhabited dwellings	13,700	13,483
Product of Penny Rate (estimated)	£24,000	£21,504

## 2. VITAL STATISTICS

	Comparable Figures England and Wales	
--	---	--

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	359	368	727
Illegitimate	22	27	49
	<u>381</u>	<u>395</u>	<u>776</u>

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 20.2 14.8

\*Corrected Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Comparability Factor 0.96) 19.4 16.0

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total births 6.00 9.00

	Males	Females	Total
STILL BIRTHS	3	5	8
LIVE & STILL BIRTHS	384	400	784

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births 10 12

## DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	14	5	19

## 3. INFANT MORTALITY

	Comparable Figures England and Wales	
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births	24	17
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks) per 1,000 total live births	15	12
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week) per 1,000 total live births	14	10
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	24	22
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	NIL	NIL

#### 4. DEATHS

Comparable  
Figures  
England and  
Wales

	Males	Females	Total	
All causes	209	203	412	
Death Rate per 1,000 population				10.7 12.1
*Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population (Comparability Factor 1.32)				14.1 12.1

\*NOTE: The corrected birth and death rates are those which are obtained when the crude local rates are adjusted to make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales. The corrected rates are comparable with the crude rates for England and Wales and the corresponding adjusted rates for any other area.

## 5. TOTAL DEATHS 1972

Causes of Deaths	Male	Female
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases	1	-
Measles	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	6	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	2	11
Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	13	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus		1
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	3	
Leukaemia	-	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms	10	5
Diabetes Mellitus	-	2
Other Endocrine etc Diseases	-	1
Anaemias	-	2
Other Diseases of Nervous System	-	3
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	3
Hypertensive Disease	3	4
Ischaemic Heart Disease	68	51
Other Forms of Heart Disease	5	9
Cerebrovascular Disease	29	37
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	12	15
Influenza	5	1
Pneumonia	9	12
Bronchitis and Emphysema	13	5
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	6	2
Peptic Ulcer	1	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	-
Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	4
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	1
Congenital Anomalies	3	2
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc	4	1
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	1
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	3	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	2
All Other Accidents	2	3
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	-	1
All Other External Causes	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total All Causes	209	203

## Infectious and Other Diseases - Statistics

## 6. INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

	1971	1972
Measles .....	105	603
Scarlet Fever .....	51	74
Whooping Cough .....	13	-
Tuberculosis .....	2	4
Infective Hepatitis .....	3	6
Acute Meningitis .....	-	1
Food Poisoning .....	1	-



## REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen

I have the honour to report on the Environmental Section of the report.

The statistics in the body of the report indicate the distribution of the work carried out by the department and it is evident from the figures the amount of time devoted to visits in respect of Improvement Grants for houses and Smoke Control Areas.

As the re-organisation of local government approaches it is perhaps appropriate to compare the changes that have taken place over a period of the last 25 years.

In 1947 the population of the District was approximately 23,000 and the number of houses 6,523 of which 432 were Council owned dwellings. Now there are over 13,000 houses and the population is approximately 44,000. In 1947 the Department spent a large part of its time investigating infectious diseases - Scarlet Fever, Tuberculosis and Diphtheria but such has been medical progress that little time is now involved on these enquiries which have now been replaced by surveillance of contacts of cases of Typhoid, Dysentery and Cholera, normally families returning from holidays abroad.

The Public Slaughterhouse has been closed for a number of years but in 1947 over 27 tons of meat was condemned for all manner of diseases and condition and the incidence of tuberculosis in cows was over 45%. Tuberculosis has now been completely eradicated from cattle and is now rarely seen in slaughterhouses.

The refuse collection service is the most demanding service to maintain. Whenever there is a delay in the normal 7-day cycle of collection the public are not satisfied with the multitude of reasons for delay - bad weather, holidays, absenteeism and sickness, vehicle breakdown and it is a constant problem trying to maintain a satisfactory service. The rapid expansion of the District especially with the quick build up of the New Town has meant an ever expanding service and continual need of revision as the town grows. The improvements in collection techniques over the years have not been spectacular but with the production of more sophisticated types of refuse vehicles giving bigger pay loads to cope with refuse that has become bulkier and lighter over recent years and with the use of plastic sacks in the place of traditional methods of collection it has been possible to hold the costs of collection within reasonable limits.

Problems that will need to be studied closely in the future are the possible separation of wastepaper at the collection point in order to reduce the amount of domestic refuse to be collected and the extended use of plastic sacks to reduce fatigue to collectors and to cope with the ever-increasing problems of extra refuse. Allied to the collection problem is the disposal of both domestic and trade waste. The old quarries in Runcorn, used over the years for tipping are now filled and it is necessary to plan a joint incinerator with Widnes and Warrington who are similarly short of tipping space.

The figures of 1947 for Canal Boat inspection make interesting reading, 210 Canal Boats were inspected on the canals and were occupied by 503 adults and 110 children. Observations were made in that year about the inadequate schooling of children on board. Since then traffic has declined and for several years canal boats have operated only occasionally, the majority having converted to houseboats.

The three important aspects of environmental health work in the urban area are housing, atmospheric pollution and sewerage.



The policy of clearing unfit houses has been pursued methodically over the years and since 1945 approximately 1250 of these houses have been cleared and the complete clearance of unfit houses should be completed by 1975. There are, however, still a large proportion of houses without basic amenities. The Council have therefore declared a policy of establishing General Improvement Areas and a programme involving approximately 1359 houses in 6 proposed areas due for completion by 1977 has been approved. Although a large proportion of the houses are up to the 12 points Standard of Fitness it will still be necessary for approximately 150 houses a year to be improved.

The question of atmospheric pollution in an industrial area is always a sensitive matter but despite criticism, sometimes unfounded, it is possible to report that there has been a reduction in smoke and sulphur dioxide levels as recorded by the five automatic recording instruments operated in the district, due in the main to the introduction of smoke control areas and replacement of old hand fired steam raising plant by modern automatic fired boiler installations. The domestic smoke control programme should be completed by 1975 and since 1947 about 20 coal fired boilers have been closed down or replaced by modern fully automatic oil or gas fired installations.

The overall reduction in pollution since 1947 is considerable and since 1962 Warren Spring Laboratory Survey of Air Pollution for the North West Region shows that there has been a 55% reduction in smoke and a 40% reduction in sulphur dioxide.

To avoid criticism of industry and the Alkali Inspectorate the suggestion of the Working Party of the Clean Air Council for the district authorities to have the discretion to set up local committees comprising representatives of the local authority, industrialists and other suitable local persons with the duty and power to collect and consider information about all aspects of industrial emissions and air quality and to publish reports thereon is an excellent one.

During the last two or three years more progress has been made in the improvement of the sewerage system than for years. With the construction of the new treatment works at Astmoor it is now possible to connect all sewers to the works and by 1973 a substantial portion of the town will be connected to it after re-sewering and the remaining areas of the district should proceed as quickly as possible.

After a long period of inactivity the way is now clear to provide a modern sewerage system for the area.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Committee and Council and the Medical Officer of Health for their support and the Staff for their loyalty and industry.

Your Obedient Servant

A DUCKWORTH

Chief Public Health Inspector

## SECTION B

### Sanitary Circumstances

#### 1. WATER SUPPLY

Supplied by Warrington, uncorn & District Water Board, Pinners Brow, Warrington  
Telephone Warrington 33537

The water supply consists of water from Lake Vrynwy and the River Dee aqueducts of Liverpool Corporation with the exception of a number of farms which have a private supply.

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
No. of samples of water taken during the year for bacteriological examination.	60	5

The Vrynwy is chlorinated at the point where the Water Board's main joins the main Vrynwy trunk main.

	Vrynwy Water	Dee Water
Quantity .....	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Quality .....	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Plumbo-Solvent Action .....	None	None
*Lead Determination after 16 hr contact period .....	Less than 0.1 parts per million	Less than 0.1 parts per million
P H Value .....	7.6	7.6
No. of dwelling houses via mains to taps	13,700	
Dwellings served by stand pipes	Nil	Nil

#### 2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

In the early part of 1972 work was commenced on improvement works to the sewerage system in the town and the Moore scheme costing £51,000 and Scheme "B" costing £309,000 were approximately halfway to completion by the end of the year and should be completed by mid 1973.

The Moore scheme provides for the sewerage of the parish of Moore and part of Daresbury, Scheme "B" when completed allows approximately half of the old part of the Town, mainly Grange N.U. and the Latham Avenue area to be drained to the sewage works at Astmoor.

It is hoped that the next stage, "C", the draining of the remaining part of the old town and connections to the sewage works will follow quickly.

#### 3. PUBLIC CLEANSING

A weekly collection of household refuse has been maintained throughout the area except on odd occasions when breakdown to vehicles and exceptional shortage of labour due to sickness has caused delays of a very temporary period.

The extension of the New Town is proceeding at a steady pace and the plastic sack system is being used throughout the development.

All plans for future developments, schools, factories and the Shopping Centre are examined before approval so that the methods of collection can be planned to fall into line with the Council's methods. The economic routing to access



points, road layouts, type of storage accommodation are scrutinised to ensure that these are satisfactory and recommendations made to the Development Corporation Architects.

With the increase in the number of smoke control areas and in heating appliances away from solid fuel the problem of extra refuse to be disposed of from households increases yearly. Refuse is becoming bulkier and lighter and in the very near future refuse containers will need to be bigger. Various experiments with larger type sacks and containers are being carried out in anticipation of future requirements. There is no Municipal Bin Scheme in operation in the area but plans have been formulated to introduce a scheme which will be necessary in April 1974 to give uniformity throughout the new Halton District.

The building of new houses both in the New Town Area and elsewhere involves continual re-adjustment and re-organisation of the various rounds to meet the bonus scheme for collectors.

The Castle Rise Refuse Tip was filled in early 1971 and tipping commenced in February 1971 at the Weston Road Tip. This Tip has only an anticipated life of a little over 3 years from the time tipping commenced and suitable sites in the area therefore are still being sought for the future.

The long term refuse disposal arrangements are therefore still urgent and the Working Party set up to consider the building of an incinerator jointly with Warrington, Widnes and Runcorn Rural District Council has made progress towards its building, but in forecasting the probable construction date of a new incinerator it is necessary to allow about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  - 3 years from the date the contractor is instructed to proceed before completion.

#### 4. CIVIC AMENITIES ACT 1967

The Council continued its policy of collecting bulky items of domestic rubbish free of charge. This service is appreciated by the public but unfortunately there are still some members of the public who, despite this offer continue to dump indiscriminately on open sites, verges, ditches etc.

It appears that the only effective way of reducing indiscriminate dumping etc., is the prosecution of offenders when possible together with publicity of the Council's scheme for the collection of bulky items of refuse.

## 5 . INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Unsound Food .....	351
Bakeries .....	2
Cafes, Canteens and Restaurants .....	55
Food Factories .....	27
Licensed Premises .....	19
Market Stalls .....	72
Food Shops .....	179
Food Vehicles .....	10
Domestic Water Samples .....	41
Swimming Bath Water Samples .....	15
Ice Cream and Lollie Samples .....	10
Caravans.....	2
Complaints .....	488
Demolition of Property .....	14
Drainage .....	268
Factories using mechanical power .....	20
Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction ....	10
Hairdressers .....	8
House Inspections and Re-visits .....	283
Improvement Grants .....	1000
Infectious Disease Investigations .....	71
Infectious Disease Surveillance .....	121
Interviews .....	484
Miscellaneous .....	389
Noise Abatement .....	13
Nuisance Abatement .....	340
Offices and Shops .....	246
Pet Shops .....	15
Petroleum Acts .....	29
Places of Entertainment .....	1
Public Conveniences .....	60
Smoke Nuisance Abatement .....	34
Smoke Control Areas .....	1299
Air Pollution Survey .....	380
Refuse Collection and Disposal .....	324
Rodent Control .....	198
Vacant Sites .....	26
Vermin and Pests .....	121
Water Supply .....	14
Administration .....	452
Boilers and Furnaces .....	4
	<u>7495</u>



## 6. CLEAN AIR ACTS 1956/1968

### (a) Prohibition of Dark Smoke

Observations of smoke emissions from industrial boiler chimneys have been made throughout the year to ensure that any emission of dark or black smoke was not in excess of the times allowed in the Dark Smoke (Permitted Period) Regulations.

It is gratifying to report that there were no contraventions of the above Regulations, this however may be attributed to the following :-

1. High capital investment by companies into new boiler installations over the last decade.
2. Automatic plant.
3. Replacement of coal fired boilers.
4. Greater efficiency from oil and gas fired installations.

The remaining coal fired boiler installation in the Urban District ceased to operate mid-way through the year, the site being cleared ready for development.

The biggest problem appears to be the emission of dark smoke from demolition, building and industrial sites and it was necessary to issue warnings against indiscriminate and thoughtless burning. Legal proceedings were instituted in one case resulting in a fine of £10.00.

### (b) New Furnaces - Height of Chimneys

Five applications of proposals to install new furnaces were received, all comprising oil fired industrial and commercial boilers of ratings greater than 60,000 BTU/hr which were designed to operate continuously without smoke.

Five applications were also received for approvals of height of chimneys in association with the aforementioned boiler installations.

Chimney heights were calculated and heights of the proposed chimneys fixed to ensure the adequate dispersion of sulphur dioxide gases. The sulphur content of the oils varied between 0.75% and 2.5% by weight.

### (c) Smoke Control Areas

The Councils Smoke Control Areas Nos 6 & 7 became operative during the year on 1st July and 1st October respectively this making a total of approximately 10417 of the Urban District's domestic properties covered by smoke control Orders.

Two more smoke control areas are planned to come into operation during 1973 No 8 on the 1st July and No 9 on the 1st October.

Three further areas planned to come into operation during the years 1974/75 will then complete the Council's smoke control programme.

Observations made of domestic premises during the year resulted in several warnings being given to householders for emissions of dark smoke from the burning of coal in smoke control areas.

### (d) Investigation of Air Pollution

The survey of smoke and sulphur dioxide was continued at the five monitoring stations operated by the Department at the Public Library, Town Hall, Halton, Weston and Norton.



The survey of air pollution within the Runcorn UDC area is part of the National Survey carried out by the Department of Trade and Industry at Warren Spring Laboratory.

The pollutants measured by this survey are the ground level concentration of smoke and sulphur dioxide. Measurement of pollution is calculated by the use of the volumetric apparatus with daily apparatus at the Town Hall site and automatic change 8 day apparatus at the remaining four sites.

#### (e) National Survey of Air Pollution

Runcorn for the purpose of the national survey is situated within the Central Sub Region of the North West Region. The North West Region contains vast industrial complexes which constitutes greatly to the overall levels of air pollution. The Central Sub Region contains heavy chemical industries based at Runcorn, Widnes and Warrington, the most important products being alkalis, chlorine and sulphuric acid.

With the exception of the Runcorn Library site the Runcorn results compare favourably with the North West Regional averages. The peculiar feature of Runcorn averages in common with others in the Central Sub Region is the high level of sulphur dioxide pollution during the summer months, summer levels of sulphur dioxide have exceeded winter levels on a number of occasions.

This peculiarity can be attributed to the close proximity of the heavy chemical industry and the high levels of sulphur dioxide pollution at Rural sites is also thought to be due to the high industrial chimneys dispersing pollutants over a wide area.

The large Liverpool and Manchester conurbations have higher pollution levels than the Central Sub Region (due to higher density housing). The Central Sub Region, however, is subject in part to the mass transport of pollutants from the Liverpool conurbations by prevailing south westerly winds and from the Manchester conurbation due to easterly air flows (often associated with poor dispersal).

Comparing the present pollution levels in the North West Region with those of 1962/63 a decrease of 55% of smoke and 40% of sulphur dioxide is observed. The decrease in the level of smoke pollution is due to the introduction of smoke control areas, where there has been a marked decrease from the use of solid fuel in preference to gas or electricity.

The graphs on pages 19 & 20 illustrate the difference in levels of pollution between areas of high density housing not designated as a Smoke Control Area and that of the Weston district of the town covered by a Smoke Control Order since October 1963. Unfortunately figures for the months January to April are not available.

## 7. NOISE

Complaints of noise during the year showed a substantial reduction on those for 1971. The large number of civil engineering contractors working within the district seem more aware of the environmental impact of noise on local residents and immediate co-operation with these companies to remedy and reduce noise levels reflects their concern. It has been unnecessary therefore to institute formal action to remedy any noise nuisance during the year.

Continual vigilance by the Department into the use of unmuffled pneumatic drills by contractors appears to have had the desired effect in that virtually all contractors are supplying mufflers for these items of equipment.

## 8. NEW DEVELOPMENT

All plans deposited with the Council for Building Regulation approval concerning food premises, shops, offices, factories and housing are scrutinised by the Department to ensure compliance with the appropriate food hygiene, health, safety and welfare legislation and the provision of suitable and sufficient refuse storage accommodation.

## 9. PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

The Urban District Council maintains a Public Swimming Bath. The mains water used is filtered and chlorinated. Daily checks are made for chlorine content by the Baths Superintendent.

Eighteen bacteriological samples of Bath's water were submitted for analysis and the Analyst reported that "the condition of the bath is satisfactory" with the exception of two samples of outlet water and one sample of inlet water which were reported to be unsatisfactory.

## 10. VERMIN AND INSECT PESTS

The total number of disinfestations carried out during the year was 210 including the treatment of school canteens during holiday periods.

The following specific cases were dealt with :-

	Infested and Disinfested				
	R D C Houses	Council Houses	Other Houses	Other Premises	Total
Fleas	24	4	-	-	28
Mite	4	4	2	-	10
Spider Beetle	3	-	-	-	3
Wood Lice	2	-	-	-	2
Bees	-	-	4	-	4
Wasps Nests	-	-	6	-	6
Ants	5	28	2	-	35
Silverfish	2	1	-	-	3
Sewage Fly	3	-	-	-	3
Bluebottle	-	-	4	-	4
Cockroach	1	8	-	-	9
Mealworm	10	-	-	-	10
Bugs	12	3	-	-	15
Flies	-	1	2	-	3



## 11. RODENT CONTROL

A. Total number of inspections or premises - 1629

Resulting in :-

B. Number of treatments for rats - 390

C. Number of treatments for mice - 353

The total number of inspections following complaints was 1629. The number of visits (including re-visits) to premises infested with rats was 1020 and 609 visits (including re-visits) were made in respect of premises infested with mice.

The fact that there has been no appreciable decrease in the number of premises infested with mice is attributable to the expansion of the "new town" on land formerly used for agriculture.

The slight increase in the number of premises infested with rats is due in part to refuse accumulations in the large number of properties vacant and awaiting clearance in the "old town", and to an increase in infestations on new building sites.

### Sewer Treatment for Rats

During the first half of the year the two follow up sewer treatments to the test bait carried out in 1971 were carried out by a private company under the supervision of the Council. Each follow up treatment involved the baiting of 120 manholes with the acute poison sodium fluoracetamide.

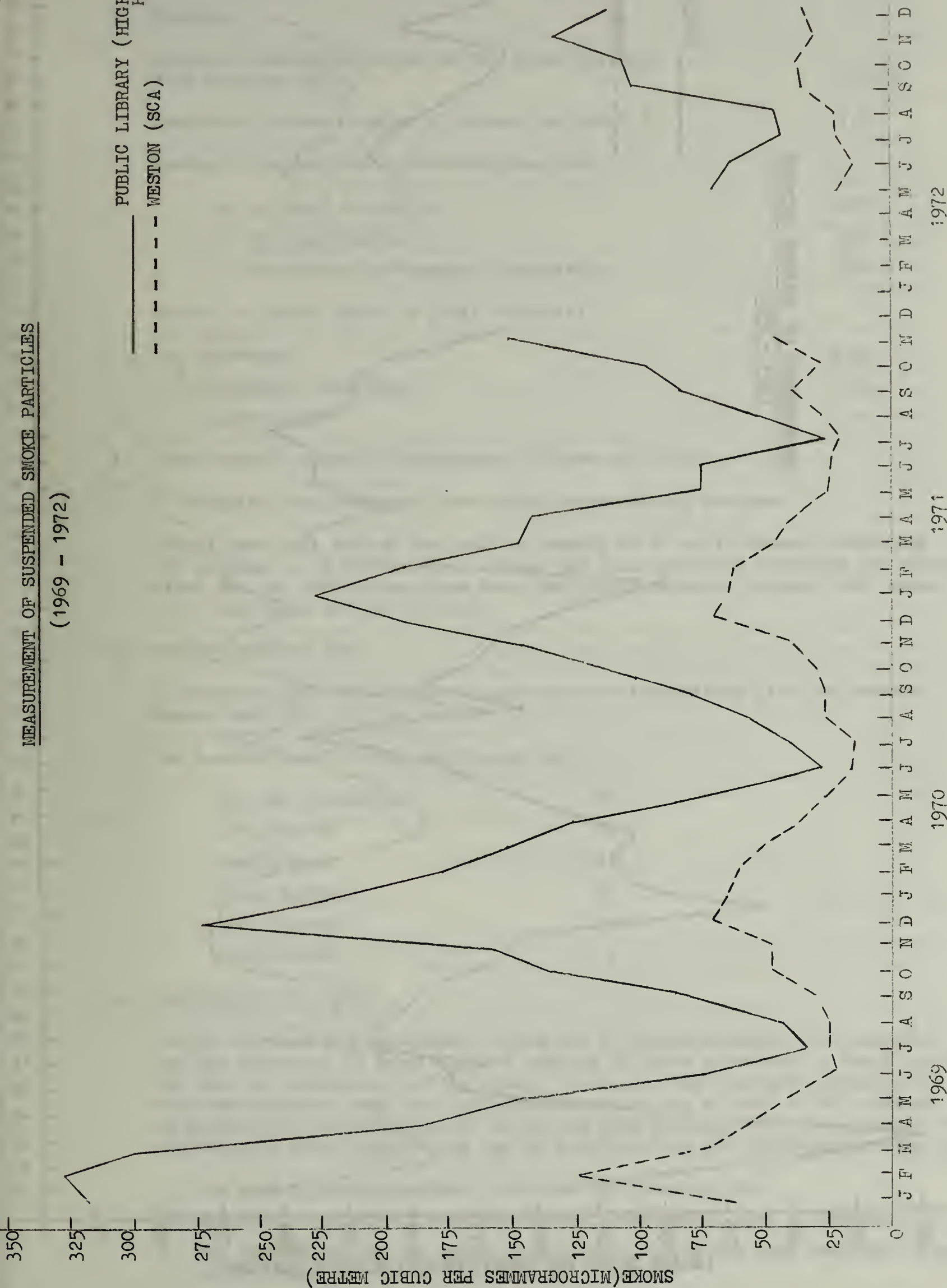
The test bait in September to assess the degree of infestation in the sewers using Warfarin was carried out using only internal labour and involved the inspection and treatment of 300 manholes. The subsequent follow up treatments on all manholes showing infestations and adjoining manholes involved the baiting with the acute poison of 200 manholes, again using only internal labour.



MEASUREMENT OF SUSPENDED SMOKE PARTICLES

(1969 - 1972)

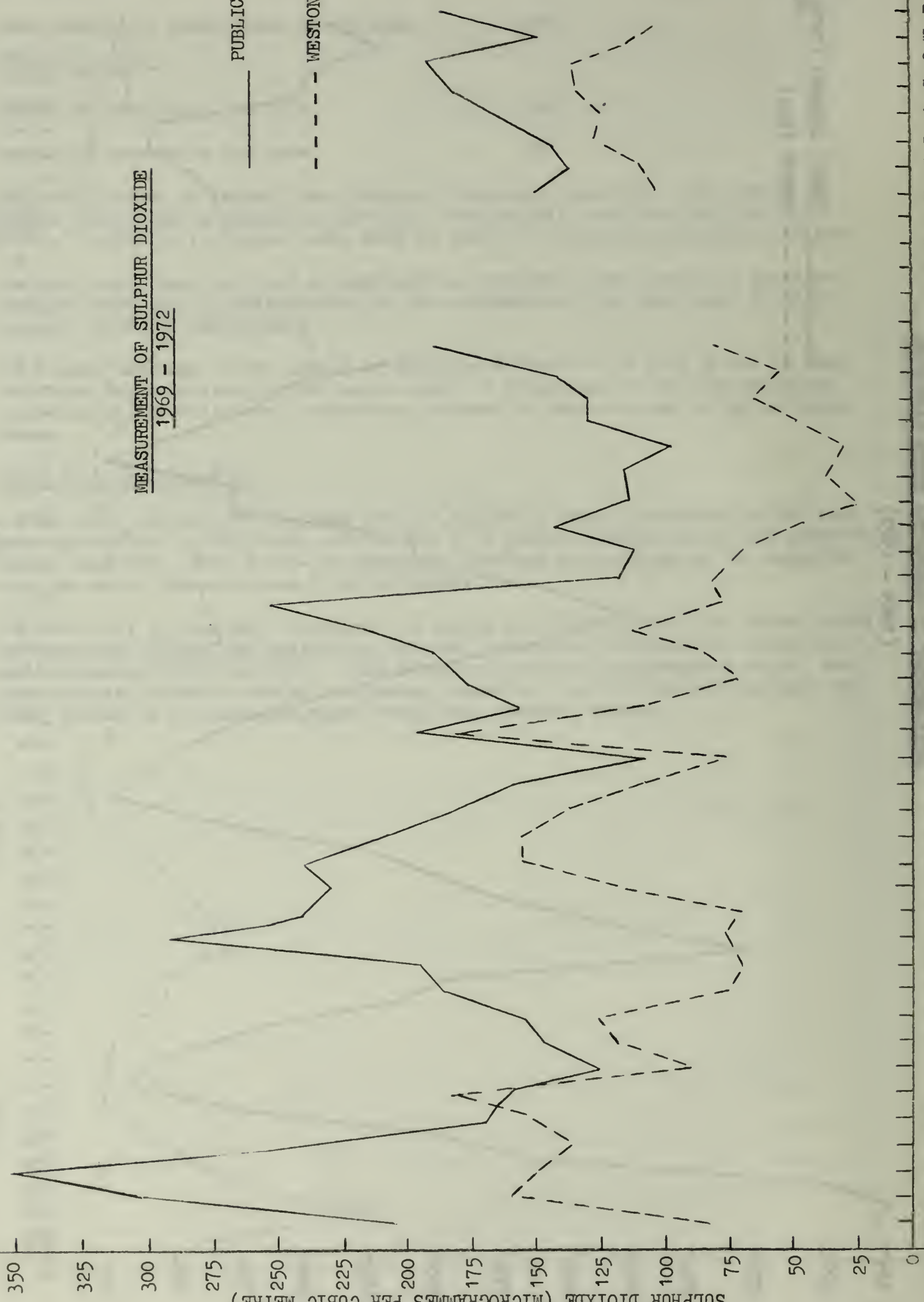
PUBLIC LIBRARY (HIGH DENSITY HOUSING)  
WESTON (SCA)



SULPHUR DIOXIDE (MICROGRAMMES PER CUBIC METRE)

— PUBLIC LIBRARY  
- - - - - WESTON (SCA)

MEASUREMENT OF SULPHUR DIOXIDE  
1969 - 1972



J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D

1969

1970

1971

1972

## SECTION C

### 1. HOUSING

Number of inhabited houses in the Urban District 31st December 1972	13,700
Density of houses (number of houses per acre)	1.7
Number of houses (new) erected during 1972	
(a) by Local Authority	193
(b) by other bodies	105
(c) by Runcorn Development Corporation	537
Number of houses owned by Local Authority	
Permanent	3135
Temporary Bungalows	23
General Fund	4

### 2. UNFIT HOUSES CLEARANCE PROGRAMME - HOUSING ACT 1957

83 families were re-housed from unfit houses during the year

Orders were made during the year in respect of 82 unfit houses (involving 198 persons to be displaced). Since the slum clearance programme was resumed after the war 1248 houses have been dealt with as unfit houses. 191 houses were demolished during the year.

### 3. HOUSING WAITING LIST

In December 1972 the number of applicants on the waiting list for Council houses was 433.

The housing needs of the applicants were :-

Old Age Pensioners	151
One Bedroom	56
Two Bedroom	117
Three Bedroom	86
Four Bedroom	20
Five Bedroom	3

### 4. IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES

During the year 225 Improvement Grants and 66 Standard Grants were approved for the provision of amenities and repairs to older structurally sound houses. The rate of improvement of the older, fit houses has increased dramatically over the previous year, the Department carrying out a total of 481 surveys of properties following initial enquiries from householders. The upsurge of interests in house improvement can be attributed to the following factors :-

1. The higher grants available with the 1969 Housing Act.
2. The Local Authority's proposed General Improvement Area programme.
3. The escalating cost of property generally during the year resulted in an extra demand for older type terraced houses.



It is anticipated that the present level of enquiries for Improvement Grants will be at least maintained during 1973 but the rate at which renovation works can be carried out, however, is governed by the number of contractors available and at the present time most contractors working within the Runcorn area are fully committed months ahead, a situation which is common throughout the country.

## 5. GENERAL IMPROVEMENT AREAS

A report presented to the April meeting of the Public Health Committee resulted in the Council declaring the Parker Street/Stanley Street district of the town its first General Improvement Area comprising some 160 properties.

The area was chosen initially for its high owner/occupier ratio, high number of properties with all amenities and the high standard of maintenance generally throughout the area of the properties. The Council in addition decided to designate this same area as its No 9 Smoke Control Area.

A General Improvement Area Working Party Group was formed and a programme involving an exhibition, general meeting with the residents and the provision of a Show House in the area was begun. It is anticipated that the Show House will be completed and open to the public in the early part of next year. Following on the acceptance of the Parker Street General Improvement Area a further programme of four General Improvement Areas was confirmed in October involving over 1240 properties in the Byron Street, Balfour Street, Waterloo Road and York Street districts of the town. The target date for the improvement of all properties together with the environmental improvements is 1978. In order for this programme to be completed 150 properties would need to be improved each year.

## 6. HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS

The Dukesfield district of the town involving some 360 properties was also declared a General Improvement Area during July, the Local Authority appointing a voluntary Housing Association - Liverpool Improved Houses Ltd. The brief to Liverpool Improved Houses is for them to produce a report covering the whole area of Dukesfield to include schemes for both individual house improvements and environmental improvements to the area. It is envisaged that the initial survey carried out by this Association will begin during January/February 1973 and the report presented to the Council mid-summer.

### SECTION D

#### Inspection and Supervision of Food

##### 1. (a) MILK SUPPLY

There is one dairy farm in the area of the Urban District which is registered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The Co-operative Dairy which was the one dairy in the area for the pasteurisation of milk closed down during the year and all work was transferred to Warrington and the Runcorn premises used as a distributing depot.

##### (b) MILK SAMPLING

The following table indicates the report of the Analyst of samples taken by the County Council in the Urban District during the year 1972.

Class of Milk	No of Samples	Appropriate Tests	No of Samples	
			Passed	Failed
Sterilised	16	Turbidity	16	-
Pasteurised	141	Phosphatase	19	-
		Methylene Blue	137	4
Untreated	8	Methylene Blue	8	-

(c) RAW MILK SUPPLIES - BRUCELLA ABORTUS

No dairy herds are licensed to sell raw milk to the public.

No samples were obtained and submitted for Brucella examination from 'raw milk herds' in the area.

2. THE MILK SPECIAL DESIGNATION REGULATIONS 1963 AND 1965

All dealers' licences under the above Regulations are issued by the Cheshire County Council, The Food and Drugs Authority for the area.

3. ICE CREAM SAMPLES

<u>Type of Sample</u>	<u>No of Samples</u>	<u>Grades</u>			
		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
Ice Cream	26	20	-	6	-
Ice Lollies	2				

Satisfactory

Subsequent follow-up samples of the unsatisfactory samples were satisfactory.

There are eighty-four premises registered for the sale of ice cream and one for the manufacture of ice cream.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

1 (a) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>No in Area</u>
-------------------------	-------------------

Supermarkets containing :-

Grocery	10
Greengrocery	8
Butchers	9
Licensed Premises	4
Grocery	39
Greengrocery	14
Butchers	16
Fried Fish	10
Catering Establishments	31
Licensed Premises	53
Bakers & Confectioners	14
Food Factories	7
Sweet Shops	32



## (b) The Inspection of Food Premises

364 visits and inspections have been made to Food Premises and Food Vehicles and 24 Notices under the Food Hygiene Regulation served in respect of redecoration of premises, provision of hand washing facilities, renewal of worn equipment, structural repairs, protection of open food and provision of First Aid materials. During the year the number of units opening at the Shopping City has increased and this has entailed inspectors examining large numbers of plans to ascertain that the proposed premises will comply with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970, and carrying out inspections of newly opened premises to ensure that the appropriate works have been carried out. Retailers generally have been very co-operative and it is hoped that this co-operation will continue.

## (c) Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry premises within the district.

(d) Unsound Foods - Surrendered and Condemned	Tons	Cwts	Lbs.
Canned meat and meat products		4	96
Other Canned Foods	13	0	7
Open uncooked meat and meat products	-	7	38
TOTAL	13	12	29

Other Foods - 16,186 packets of frozen food.

## 2. ADULTERATION OF FOOD

None of the 133 samples of food taken for analysis during 1972 were not up to standard.

## 3. PROSECUTIONS - FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

- (i) Mouldy Pie - £10.00 fine, advocate's fee £10.00
- (ii) Mouldy Pie - £10.00 fine, advocate's fee £7.00
- (iii) Mouldy Yoghurt - case withdrawn.
- (iv) Slug in bottle of milk - £25.00 fine, advocate's fee £10.00
- (v) Mouldy Loaf - £30.00 fine Costs £10.00
- (vi) Mouldy Pie - £25.00 fine, advocate's fee £10.00
- (vii) Metal in Chocolate - £20.00 fine.

### Food complaints received from private purchasers.

There has been a big increase in the number of food complaints reported to the Department during 1972 particularly regarding mould on food, thirty-six complaints compared with eight in 1971 which indicates how discerning the public are in respect of their food.

Of the twenty-seven complaints which were considered justified, proceedings were instituted in respect of seven, the results of which are shown above. The action taken in respect of the other twenty complaints is summarised overleaf.

Nature of Complaint	Remarks
Maggot in breakfast cereal	Unable to establish origin of maggot. No further action.
Spaghetti containing mould	No action. Insufficient evidence.
Loaf contaminated by oil	Bakers cautioned.
Bread rolls contaminated with mould	Retailer and baker cautioned.
Yoghourt containing mould	No action. Insufficient evidence.
Discoloured bread rolls	No further action
Foreign matter in two loaves of bread	Bakers cautioned
Loaf containing carbon black	Bakers cautioned
Loaf containing carbon black	Bakers cautioned
Milk containing iron washer and mould	Bottlers cautioned
Tea contaminated with mould	Manufacturer cautioned
Loaf containing earwig	Insufficient evidence - no action
Swiss roll contaminated with mould	Retailer cautioned
Tin of peas containing dandelion pod	Manufacturer cautioned
Meat pie containing fly	Manufacturer cautioned
Cheese contaminated with mould	Retailer cautioned
Cheese contaminated with mould	Retailer cautioned
Sugar contaminated with oil	Manufacturers cautioned
Lager contaminated with mould	Manufacturers cautioned
Crisp bread containing insect	Retailer cautioned

In addition to investigating the above complaints the Department also carried out a survey of fresh dairy products and of 1211 items of short-life food inspected 192 were found to be beyond the date code. During the survey it was found that the majority of shopkeepers and Managers seemed unaware of any system of coding on the food and of those who knew of the existence of such code the majority were unable to interpret the expiry date. This particularly applied to the small corner shops where the owners purchased from large Cash & Carry wholesalers where the seller and buyer were not aware of the date code. Action has been taken to try to prevent recurrence and it is hoped that the introduction of open dating on these products which is to be introduced during 1973 will also assist.



## Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

## 1. GENERAL

Plans for new premises and alterations to existing ones are checked to ensure initial compliance with the Act.

83 new premises were registered during the year bringing the total of the number of premises registered to 413.

During the year 124 premises received General Inspections and 218 visits were made to registered premises and occupiers were notified of a total of 129 contraventions.

TABLE A  
Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises	No. of Premises Registered during the year	Total No. Registered Premises at the end of the year	No. of Registered Premises receiving a General Inspection during the year
Offices	12	110	29
Retail Shops	54	251	70
Wholesale Shops/ Warehouses	2	8	1
Catering Establishments open to the Public, Canteens	15	42	24
Fuel Storage Depots	-	2	-
	83	413	124

TABLE B

Number of Visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises - 218

TABLE C

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace

Class of Workplace	No of Persons Employed
Office	3451
Retail Shop	1321
Wholesale Dept/Warehouse	112
Catering Establishments open to the Public	221
Canteens	172
Fuel Storage Depots	5
	<u>Total</u> 5282
	Total Males 2651
	Total Females 2631

The following table gives an analysis of the nature and number of contraventions of the Act discovered on inspection :-

Cleanliness	6
Temperature	25
Ventilation	2
Sanitary Conveniences	17
Clothing Accommodation	3
Eating Facilities	3
Seating for Staff	2
Floors, Passages & Stairs	19
Machinery fencing	1
First Aid	22
Information for Employees	28
Overcrowding	<u>1</u>
	<u>129</u>

The contraventions most frequently found related to sanitary conveniences, first aid kits, floors, passages and stairs, the display of the prescribed abstract of the Act and the maintenance of a reasonable temperature in offices and shops.

The prosecution was instituted in respect of insufficient ventilation to shop premises resulting in an absolute discharge owing to the work having been completed.

## 2. ACCIDENTS

Reports of 11 accidents were received during the year and all were investigated. It appears that only the larger stores and offices are reporting the accidents which occur.

Two accidents occurred, due to the carelessness of employees whilst using food slicing machines, despite the provision of adequate guarding required by the legislation.

### CLASSIFICATION OF ACCIDENTS.

Cause	Total
Falling objects	3
Falls of Persons	2
Lifting objects	1
Food slicing machines	2
Others	3



# ANNEX

## FACTORIES ACT 1961

### Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act 1961

#### PART 1 OF THE ACT

#### 1. INSPECTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH by Public Health Inspectors

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	-	-	-
2. Factories not in- cluded in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	126	25	5	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	32	3	-	-
TOTAL	165	28	5	-

## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to HM Insp.	by HM Insp.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	1	-	1	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:					
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-

### PART VIII OF THE ACT

#### OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

There were no outworkers in the district during the year









